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9 April 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant to the Director for Planning and Coordination.

SUBJECT : Review of CIA War Plans for Second Half of Calendar Year 1955.

REFERENCES : (a) Memo dtd 15 Mar 56 to DCI fr SA-DCI(P&C), same subject. (T/S 143349)
(b) Memo dtd 4 Apr 56 to DD/S fr SA-DCI(P&C), subject: "War Planning."

1. With regard to reference (b), I don't see any useful purpose to be served by meeting with the other Deputy Directors to discuss reference (a). I will, of course, be glad to meet with you at any time, but my views can be summarized briefly as follows:

a. With regard to the general problem, there are two principal points:

(1) DD/S probably will never have all of the information he wants no matter how hard we try to perfect our system. However, the degree to which support requirements have fluctuated in the past without a corresponding fluctuation in the operational situation causes me concern as to the validity of these requirements. This makes it all the more important that Support Planning and Operational Planning proceed simultaneously and "hand in glove." Improvement in this area during the past year is, in my view, very impressive, and I am sure that it will continue.

(2) Should we have an Agency plan within the framework of which all other planning is carried on, or should the summation of a whole series of separate and fairly independent plans be the Agency plan? Obviously, from the Support point of view we would prefer the former. Maybe it isn't possible at this stage in our development, or maybe it isn't possible at all. In any case, I do believe there is eventually a stronger role to be played by your staff than other demands on your time will now permit.

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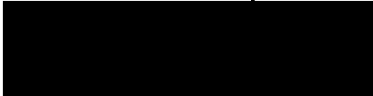
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b. With regard to reference (a) itself,

NA (1) In "Operation Alert-1955" DD/P, DD/I, and DD/S planned and conducted completely independent exercises based on different assumptions with different controls, etc. These exercises were worthwhile, I believe, but inasmuch as we have had this experience and "Operation Alert-1956" will be of longer duration, I think that Agency coordination is in order and would enable us to get more out of the exercise. DD/S should play a purely supporting role, and in my judgment it would be inappropriate for him to chair a committee such as that proposed in Tab A of reference (a). Hence, I do not concur in this recommendation.

(2) The problems in connection with Planning in support of the Clandestine Services are those discussed in paragraph 1.a. above. There are adequate safeguards in our budget and fiscal procedures, as well as in existing Agency regulations, to prevent unauthorized or unwarranted expenditures. I see no point in publishing Tab B, and do not concur in this recommendation.

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L. K. WHITE
Deputy Director
(Support)